

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

IO-14 CU-04 COME-00 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 069644

R 051708Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6619

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CH

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS OF EVENTS IN CHINA

REF: PEKING 197

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA (FAR EAST) DUZER TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT FRENCH EMBASSY PEKING HAD REPORTED SIGNS OF INTERNAL TURMOIL WHICH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AN IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE. EMBASSY REPORTED THE REAPPEARANCE OF NIGHT PATROLS AND THE SOUNDS OF MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AND PERHAPS CLASHES. DUZER THOUGHT THAT THE SEIZURE OF THE TWO FRENCH TEACHERS ON FEBRUARY 2 AND CONFISCATION OF THEIR FILM WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HEIGHTENED POPULAR SENSITIVITY TO SOVIET ESPIONAGE, BUT THAT THE INCIDENT ALSO SHOWED THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE GENERALIZED XENOPHOBIA.

2. DUZER HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT SHIFT IN CULTURAL DIRECTIVES. HE CONFIRMED THAT QUAI HAD SENT FRENCH EMBASSY PEKING INSTRUCTIONS TO WITHDRAW THE FRENCH ORCHESTRA PROPOSAL BY THE END OF JANUARY IF
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THE PRC HAD NOT REPLIED BY THAT TIME (REFTEL). GOF HAD

PREVIOUSLY CONCLUDED WHEN THE ATTACKS ON BEETHOVEN HAD
BEGUN THAT THE LACK OF RESPONSE WAS THE PRC WAY OF
DECLINING A PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON CULTURAL PROGRAM.
DUZER ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE CHANGE IN PRC POLICY TOWARD
THE ANTONIONI FILM ON CHINA AND THE SPECTACULAR FORM OF
THE DENUNCIATION WAS ANOTHER INDICATION OF CHANGES IN
CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS. DUZER THOUGHT ANTONIONI'S
REPLY, INCLUDING THE STATEMENT THAT INTERNAL PRC CHANGES
WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHIFT IN PRC POSITION, SHOWED
CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY.

3. DUZER SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE OUR KEEPING IN TOUCH
WITH HIM CONCERNING ANY INTERNAL CHANGES IN THE PRC
WHICH COULD AFFECT RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AS WELL AS US.
IRWIN

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30 JUN 2005

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